

# Aboriginal X-Ray Painting

## Description:

Children will learn about aboriginal x-ray drawings and paintings as they create an x-ray painting of their own.

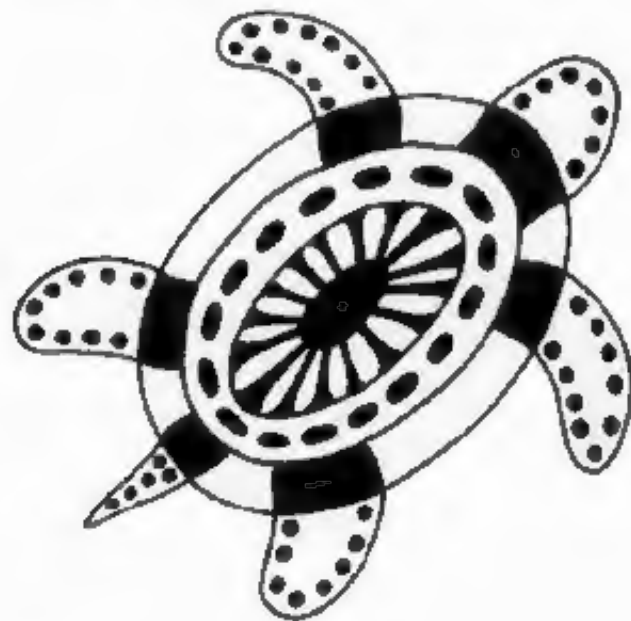
## Materials:

heavy paper or cardboard, thick paint (acrylics; tempera or poster paint with white glue or flour added as thickener), paintbrushes, water and containers, cotton swabs, black crayons or oil pastels

**Standards:** 4

**Concepts:** Line, shape, color, and emphasis

**Level:** Pre K-3



## Procedure:

Look at the aboriginal x-ray drawing in *JumpStart Artist*, or find examples in books or on the Internet. Explain to your child that an x-ray drawing of a person or an animal shows it both inside and out. These artworks use thick and thin lines, dots, and areas of color to show things like blood and the texture of skin. Have your child choose a simple subject for a painting, such as a fish or a turtle, and sketch its outline on paper. Encourage him to depict things on the outside and on the inside of the animal: things that are seen, such as the tail, and things that are not seen, such as the stomach. Have your child show energy and emotion by drawing thick and thin lines (using black crayons or black oil pastels) inside the subject. The shapes created by the lines can then be painted with bold earthy colors like reds, yellows, ochres, oranges and browns. Add dots by dipping cotton swabs into paint and dabbing them on the paper.

## Simplify:

A young child can create an x-ray drawing with crayons, markers, oil pastels and other dry media instead of paint, or he can color in the printable X-ray activity page.

## Extension:

Look at medical books to see pictures of x-rays. The next time you go in for a check-up, ask the doctor to show your child some x-rays.

## Just for Kids:

When you look at aboriginal x-ray drawings, ask yourself why the artists used the colors and shapes they did. In an x-ray drawing of an animal, you see what is inside the animal as well as what is outside. It is very much like the x-rays the doctor takes to see inside the body. You can draw an x-ray picture of an animal by using thick and thin lines, dots, and lots of bright earth colors. Let your imagination take over as you draw and paint an animal from the inside out.

## Resources:

*Aboriginal Paintings of Australia* by Carol Finley